

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Burma/Thailand	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	1. Burmese Pressure on Shan Refugees 2. Tightening of Controls in Kengtung	DATE DISTR.	18 June 1954
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1. The Burmese have ordered the ex-Sawbwas of Mawmai, Laihka, and Mongpan States to serve as a liaison group to contact the Shans who have fled into Thailand to escape Burmese bombings and the demands of the Burmese Army. The ex-Sawbwas, who were still at Mongpan as of 24 April 1954, have sent word to the refugees that unless they return at once the Burmese will confiscate their fields, houses, and livestock. They have also sent word secretly that if the Shans do return the men will be punished. It appears that the majority of the refugees would rather lose their property than return and again be subjected to Burmese authority.
2. The Burmese have started work on an air field at Mong Hang (N 20-03, E 98-57).
3. The Burmese are now allowing gambling in Kengtung City. The heavy license fees are being used to pay the salaries of secret police stationed in Kengtung Valley.
4. Burmese authorities are now recalling all old silver rupees bearing the profiles of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, and King George V. These coins have been valued by the local people for trade at one silver rupee to two paper notes. The authorities are taking them in for one paper note each. The withdrawal of the silver rupees and checks by the Burmese on the movements of all people have practically paralyzed all trade in Kengtung.

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